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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Letter dated 21 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on behalf of the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States concerning the Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for February 1992, I request you to have the text of the above-mentioned statement circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 35, entitled "The situation in the Middle East".

(Signed) Mohamedou OULD MOHAMED MAHMOUD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement on behalf of the Secretary-General

The treacherous Israeli aggression against Lebanon occurs at a time when all the peoples of the world aspire to see peace and security prevail in the Middle East region. It represents a blatant challenge to all international covenants and customs and emphasizes once again that war and terrorism are an inseparable part of the structure of the Zionist settler entity.

The long and bitter years of the struggle witnessed by the region over the past four decades have left behind thousands of victims, with all the concomitant human suffering that defies description. They have also led to the destruction of a vast quantity of resources that might have been channelled towards construction instead of destruction. However, the fresh Israeli aggression against Lebanon, with all the innocent civilian victims it has caused - more than 100,000 Lebanese fled from this terrorism - and with all the destruction and devastation it has entailed, confirms that Israel's aggression knows no bounds and that it is still endeavouring to reignite the situation in Lebanon. Now that Lebanon has begun to regain its vitality and make substantial steps towards national reconciliation, in accordance with the Taif Agreement, Israel is trying to dilute the international efforts aimed at the implementation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and the unification of the standards of international legitimacy. Unquestionably, the heroic Lebanese national resistance finds its basis and its continuity only in the continuation of the ongoing Israeli aggression and occupation in southern Lebanon. Accordingly, the implementation of resolution 425 (1978) would remove the real cause of the tension and the fighting in this area.

Accordingly, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States calls upon the Security Council not merely to appeal to the parties to exercise restraint but to take measures to curb the aggressor and put an end to Israel's racist expansionist policy.

Furthermore, Israel is actually seeking to demolish the international efforts based on unanimous agreement on the necessity of establishing peace and security in the Middle East and to prevail upon the Arab States to close the negotiating door that opened recently with a view to arrival at a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international legitimacy, whose requirements have been accepted in full by the Arab States in affirmation of their faith in peace as a principle in which they believe as a necessity.